

Message Text

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 272445

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MOSP, WE, GE, WB, US, UR

SUBJECT: EXFILTRATION

REFERENCE: USBERLIN 2170

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH USBER THAT REALITIES OF EXFIL-
TRATION SITUATION SUMMARIZED REFTEL MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT
ANYTHING SHORT OF A POLICY OF ABSOLUTE SELF DENIAL, WHICH
CLEARLY NOT IN OUR INTEREST, WOULD GUARANTEE THAT NO MEM-
BERS OF THE US FORCES WILL BE INVOLVED IN FUTURE EXFILTRA-
TION ATTEMPTS. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE (PARAS 2 AND 3 REFTEL)
THAT NUMBER OF US PERSONNEL INVOLVED IS VERY SMALL,
GIVEN EXTENT OF OUR TROOP PRESENCE IN BERLIN AND NUM0ER OF
TRIPS INTO EAST BERLIN AND TO FRG ON AUTOBAHN UNDERTAKEN BY
MEMBERS OF US GOVERNMENT. NEVERTHELESS, RECENT RASH OF IN-
CIDENTS, WHETHER COINCIDENTAL OR RESULT OF GDR ENTRAPMENT,
MAKES IT IMPERATIVE THAT SOME ADDITIONAL STEPS BE TAKEN TO
AVOID FURTHER INCIDENTS WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER ALLIED RIGHTS
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OF FREE MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND ALONG THE HELMSTED

AUTOBAHN.

2. FOLLOWING REVIEW OF USBER'S EXHAUSTIVE REPORT (REFTEL), WE SEE NO APPARENT NEED TO CHANGE THE CRITERIA (PARA 5, REFTEL) FOR PRIVATE TRAVEL TO EAST BERLIN OR FOR USING THE

HELMSTED AUTOBAHN. HOWEVER, WE DO FEEL THAT RESPONSIBLE COMMANDING OFFICERS SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL APPROVALS TO MAKE SUCH TRIPS, AND THAT STRICTER COMPLIANCE TO EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS IS CALLED FOR.

3. WE AGREE THAT COURT MARTIAL PROCEDURES SHOULD BE USED ONLY AFTER MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND ONLY WITH CONCURRENCE FROM WASHINGTON. PUBLICITY WHICH COURT MARTIAL WOULD GIVE TO INVOLVEMENT OF OFFICIAL US PERSONNEL IN EXFILTRATION ACTIVITIES, AND IMPRESSION IT COULD LEAVE THAT US INSENSITIVE TO BROADER HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS WHICH PROMPT EAST GERMANS REFUGEES TO UNDERTAKE SUCH DESPERATE MEASURES WOULD ONLY PROVE HARMFUL. IN OUR VIEW, THEREFORE, WE SHOULD FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON EXPANDED PREVENTIVE MEASURES WHILE MAINTAINING CURRENT STRICT AND SPEEDY ARTICLE 15 AND ADMINISTRATIVE PUNISHMENTS FOR EXFILTRATORS VIOLATING MILITARY REGULATIONS.

4. IN THIS REGARD, WE GREATLY APPRECIATE USBER'S COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES WHICH COULD BE TAKEN TO REDUCE US INVOLVEMENT IN EXFILTRATION ACTIVITIES. PRINCIPAL STEP WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN ASAP, IN OUR OPINION, IS RIGOROUS SEARCH OF ALL POVS WITH EXCEPTION OF THOSE LISTED PARA 10 REFTEL. BEYOND THAT, WE BELIEVE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN BERLIN ARE IN BEST POSITION TO DETERMINE WHICH ADDITIONAL MIX OF SUGGESTED MEASURES IS MOST LIKELY TO HAVE DESIRED IMPACT ON TROOPS IN BERLIN WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING OUR RIGHTS OF ACCESS AND FREE MOVEMENT TO AND WITHIN THE CITY. WE ASSUME THAT THESE ADDITIONAL MEASURES WILL BE PROMPTLY AND EFFECTIVELY INSTITUTED. INGERSOLL

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